

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 DOTE-00 /063 W

-----161932Z 097207 /41

R 161325Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5979

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

JOHANNESBURG FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES OFFICER/SWEETWOOD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRN, EWWT, MZ

SUBJECT: RAIL MISHAP DESTROYS MATOLA ORE TIPPLER

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LOCAL PRESS JUNE 16 REPORTED THAT A RAIL ACCIDENT MAY 19 AT MATOLA ORE LOADING FACILITY RESULTED IN DESTRUCTION OF ONE OF MATOLA'S TWO RAIL CAR TIPPLERS, AND THE DERAILMENT OF SEVERAL RAIL CARS. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE WHICH CALLED THE ACCIDENT THE "MOST SERIOUS EVER" IN MOZAMBIQUE, DAMAGES AND LOSSES WILL TOTAL DOLS US 5.4 MILLION.

2. PRESS STATED THAT ACCIDENT HAPPENED WHEN TRAIN WITH 19 CARS
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OF SWAZILAND IRON ORE ARRIVED AT SWITCHING POINT WHERE CARS ARE CHANNELLED TO ONE OF THE TWO TIPPLERS, ONLY TO FIND THAT WORKMEN IN CHARGE OF SWITCHING HAD LEFT THEIR POST. ONE TRAIN-MAN DISMOUNTED, AND AFTER SEARCHING UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR A SWITCHMAN, UNCOUPLED THE RAIL CARS HIMSELF. HOWEVER, TRAINMAN WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH SAFETY PROCEDURES, AND NEGLECTED TO ENGAGE RAIL CAR BRAKES. LOADED CARS SPED DOWN WRONG TRACK WHICH IS

INCLINED, AND SMASHED INTO TIPPLER WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT IN IMPROPER POSITION WHEN NOT IN USE.

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3. COMMENT: LOCAL SHIPPING AGENT TOLD EMBOFF THAT TIPPLER WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED, AND IMPACT OF COLLISION ALSO DESTROYED CEMENT FOUNDATION. TIPPLER DESTROYED IN ACCIDENT HAD RECENTLY BEEN RETURNED FROM SOUTH AFRICA WHERE IT HAD BEEN COMPLETELY OVERHAULED AND REPAIRED. THE SECOND TIPPLER, NOW THE ONLY ONE WORKING, WAS TO HAVE BEEN SENT TO SOUTH AFRICA THIS MONTH FOR OVERHAULING. BESIDES THE LOSS OF CAPACITY TO DUMP 190-200 CARS A DAY OF ARRIVING ORE, LOSS OF TIPPLER ALSO MEAN THAT MUCH OF THE CHROME ORE ALREADY IN MATOLA DUMPS CANNOT BE MOVED THROUGH THAT FACILITY. AGENT SAID THAT THIS ORE MUST NOW BE RELOADED ONTO RAIL CARS AND MOVED TO THE MAIN WHARF AT MAPUTO, WHERE IT WILL HAVE TO BE LOADED ONTO SHIPS BY BUCKET AND CRANE. BOTH AGENT AND RAILWAY OFFICIAL SAID THAT IT MAY TAKE AS MUCH AS A YEAR TO REPAIR THE FACILITY AND INSTALL A NEW TIPPLER. RAILWAY OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT OFFICIAL FROM GENERAL MINING COMPANY OF SOUTH AFRICA IS IN MAPUTO TO SEE IF FACILITY CAN BE REPAIRED IN LESS TIME.

4. LOSS OF TIPPLER WILL MEAN SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN MAPUTO CAPACITY TO HANDLE SWAZILAND IRON ORE, AND SOUTH AFRICAN MAGNETITE AND CHROME. BESIDES THE LOSS OF REVENUE WHICH WILL RESULT FROM THE SMALLER QUANTITY OF ORE WHICH WILL BE LOADED REVENUES WILL BE FURTHER DECREASE BECAUSE LOADING ORES BY BUCKET AND CRANE IS MUCH SLOWER AND MORE EXPENSIVE. SLOWER LOADING RATE WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEAN RAIL CARS WILL BE IN MAPUTO LONGER, WHICH INCREASES RAIL CAR DEMURRAGE (NOW 30 RAND PER DAY PER DAY).

5. THIS ACCIDENT IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY UNDISCIPLINED OR INEXPERIENCED WORKERS. SINCE THE RAIL AND PORT AUTHORITY IN MAPUTO IS LOSING MORE THAN 1000 PORTUGUESE TECHNICAINS, INCLUDING SUPERVISING AND MANAGERIAL PERSONNEL, WITH THE NEXT MONTH, IT IS LIKELY THAT MORE MISHAPS WILL RESULT.

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DE PREE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RAILROAD ACCIDENT, IRON, RAIL SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770215-0640
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770650/aaaabsbv.tel
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Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: EMIN, ETRN, EWWT, MZ
To: STATE
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